

Bald Eagle

FACTS



U.S. STATUS: THREATENED

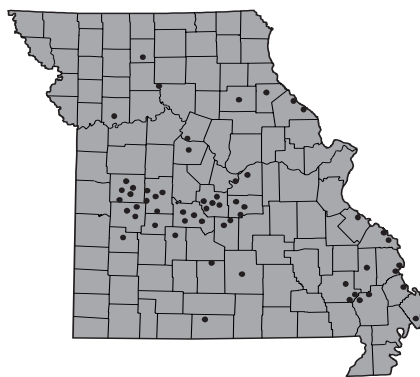
In 1995, the bald eagle was down-listed from endangered to threatened on a national level. Bald eagles are now nesting across the U.S. because of eagle reintroductions and the natural recolonization of their former range.

MISSOURI STATUS: ENDANGERED

Missouri recognizes the bald eagle as endangered on the state level, but soon may down-list it to threatened status.

NESTS

In 2001, summer nesting numbers increased again in Missouri. At least 76 territories were located and at least 61 nests produced young. More than 100 young eagles flew from the nests. The main locations were at Truman Lake, however, they were distributed throughout the state with nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of Missouri's counties reporting eagle nests.



LOCATIONS OF NESTS

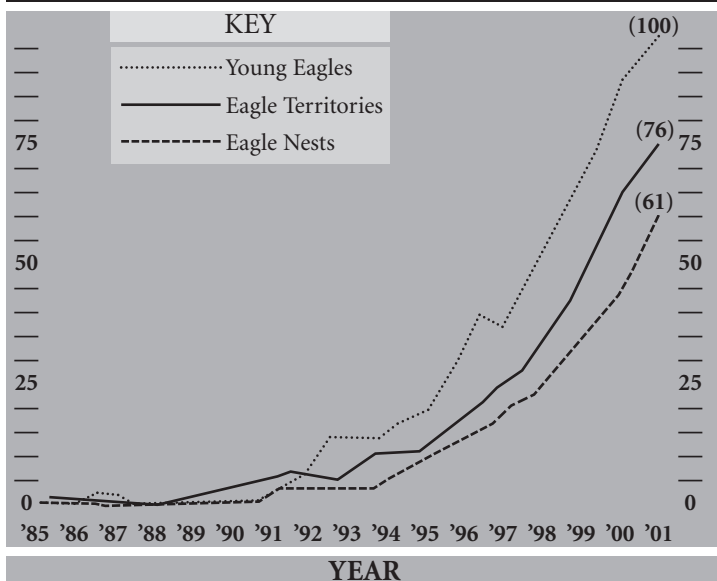
WINTERING BALD EAGLES

Missouri continued to be one of the leading states in wintering eagles last winter. During the 2001 annual winter eagle count, a total of 2,866 eagles were recorded. That number includes 54 percent adults and 46 percent immatures, along with six golden eagles. Most of the eagles were counted near Table Rock Lake, the Mississippi River and the Osage River.

In general, the number of wintering eagles is growing. Bald Eagles are doing well enough that there is no longer a need to continue counting their nests. Several years ago, the count was down slightly because warmer weather may not have forced as many eagles this far south. Here are the most recent numbers from the monitoring project:

2000-01	2,866 eagles
1999-00	1,970 eagles
1998-99	2,373 eagles
1997-98	2,009 eagles
1996-97	2,529 eagles
1995-96	2,632 eagles
1994-95	2,413 eagles
1993-94	2,054 eagles
1992-93	2,394 eagles

BALD EAGLE NESTING SUCCESS



OVER ↓



MORE ABOUT BALD EAGLES

- **Habitat loss** (especially cypress swamps), hunting and persecution in the late 1800s are what initially decimated Missouri's bald eagle population. Missouri's eagles were already gone by the mid-1900s when DDT was impacting hatching success in other parts of the country.
- **Historically**, the main concentration of nesting bald eagles in Missouri was in the cypress swamps of the Bootheel (before the cypress forests were cut and the swamps drained).
- **The construction** of large reservoirs in Missouri such as Truman Lake, Lake of the Ozarks, Pomme de Terre Lake and others has created bald eagle habitat in parts of the state other than the traditional Bootheel swamp habitat.
- **Sycamore trees** are the most common bald eagle nest trees in Missouri, followed by cottonwood and bald cypress.
- Biologists roughly estimate that the **summer population** of eagles in Missouri is around 200.
- Biologists figure that there is a 50 percent **mortality rate** for bald eagles during their first year after leaving the nest, a 10 percent mortality the second year and 5 percent per year from the third year on.
- **Management efforts** since the reintroductions in the 1980s include:
 - Surveying and monitoring for eagle populations until their numbers became stable
 - Saving existing nest trees from development and bank erosion
 - Leaving buffer zones around nest trees
 - Establishing trees along streams and reservoirs